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Letter dated 28 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With regard to the letter dated 17 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2017/616), Egypt reaffirms the following:

- The claim of the Sudan that the Hala'ib and Shalatin triangle is Sudanese territory has no legal, historical or factual basis. The reference in the letter from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the occupation by Egypt of Hala'ib and Shalatin is unacceptable. All of the other claims that are made in that letter, including the assertion that there are Sudanese government facilities in those areas and that international humanitarian law is applicable to and violations had occurred in those areas have no basis in truth.

- All of the areas north of the 22nd parallel of latitude referenced in the letter from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan are Egyptian lands that are part the national territory and the population of which are Egyptian nationals. The attempts of the Sudan to raise doubts regarding Egyptian sovereignty over those areas are merely groundless claims that are not consonant with a sound legal assessment of the temporary administrative arrangements that were granted to the Sudan pursuant to internal administrative decisions that were taken by the Egyptian Minister of the Interior during period of condominium.

- All the measures that are being taken by the Egyptian authorities in those areas are in line with the actions that are customarily taken by State authorities when fulfilling their responsibilities and exercising their competences. Those measures are also aimed at realizing the development efforts of the State throughout its territory, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution as they are applied throughout national territory and for the benefit of all Egyptian citizens.

- The demolition activity referenced in the letter is part of the effort to remove illegal structures that are on State territory in Red Sea governorate and is part of the campaign that is being executed in all governorates of the Republic.

- All Egyptian security and administrative presence is within Egyptian territory to the north of the 22nd parallel of latitude and will remain in place. Such a presence is natural and in line with the exercise by Egypt of sovereignty over its territory up to the border between Egypt and the Sudan, which runs along the 22nd parallel of latitude north. Among the duties of the security forces and the Egyptian Border Guard are securing the international border between

Egypt and the Sudan, including the Ra's Hadrabah border point, and ensuring the security of the area and its population.

- Egypt reserves the right to take all measures to protect its interests and nationals in those border areas, in accordance with the Constitution and the law.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Amr Abdellatif **Aboulatta**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative